GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2321
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2016
Digitisation of Broadcast Sector
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has prepared any roadmap for digitisation of broadcast sector;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether it is true that the demands for indigenous set-top boxes are on rise, if so, the details thereof; and
(d) whether the Government proposes to promote indigenous manufacture of set-top boxes for cable/DTH TVs, and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING {COL RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (Retd.)}

a) & (b): Ministry of Information and Broadcasting vide its Notifications dated 11.11.2011 and 11.9.2014 laid down the phase-wise schedule for digitization of the Cable TV Networks across the country in four phases. The timeline for digitisation of cable TV services are as under:

Phase-I : Four Metros of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai by 30th October, 2012.
Phase-II: Cities with a population more than one million by 31st March 2013.
Phase-III: All other urban areas not covered under phase I & II by 31st December, 2015.
Phase-IV: Rest of India by 31st December 2016.

PRASAR BHARTI

(i) All India Radio

As far as All India Radio (AIR) is concerned, AIR has already adopted digital broadcasting technique by replacing 35 old outlived MW and 2 SW transmitters by equal power DRM transmitters. 2 old outlived SW transmitters are under replacement by equal power DRM transmitters.
-2-

The old outlived equipment of studios at 98 AIR centres have been replaced by digital equipment and old outlived equipment of studios at 29 AIR centres are also being replaced by digital equipment under 12th Plan.

In addition to above, 31 AIR's channels are available on Doordarshan's DTH platform (DD Free Dish) and can be received by set top box throughout the country including rural and border areas. 13 AIR's channels are also available on internet platform. AIR's website <allindiaradio.gov.in> or by downloading suitable apps on iOS/ Android/ Windows based mobile phones.

(ii) Doordarshan

Transmission in satellite mode (DD free Dish) is digital. Out of 67 Doordarshan Studio centres, 24 are fully digital and 39 are digital except Camera chains, which are under procurement. Remaining four studios are yet to be digitized.
For complete digitization of its terrestrial network, Doordarshan has planned establishment of 630 digital transmitters (HPTs-230, LPTs-400), in its Master Plan, to provide the present level of coverage as being provided by existing analog transmitters. 63 digital HPTs have been approved in 11th & 12th Plan as part of Digitalization scheme. In the first phase, 16 digital transmitters have been commissioned and another 3 digital HPTs have been installed and under testing. Procurement action has been initiated for remaining 44 digital transmitters.

(c) & (d): Set-Top Boxes (STBs) procured by Multi System Operators/Local Cable Operators are supplied by the indigenous manufacturers also. As per data provided by the Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA), an association of indigenous manufacturers of STBs, about 5% of the total requirement of STBs during Phase I & II were met from indigenous STBs and during Phase III & IV the demand of indigenous STBs increased about 15% of total requirement.

Ministry has been supporting the local manufacturing of STBs right from the beginning of digitization. For this purpose, a representative of Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manufacturers Association (CEAMA) was included as a member of the Task Force constituted to steer the process of cable TV digitisation. At present, STBs are indigenously manufactured by about 10 companies in India and they have sufficient installed capacity to meet the demand. They can even scale up the capacity if there is a demand. Further, now the STBs are also a part of Telecommunication Network. To facilitate this sector, the Department of Revenue,

Ministry of Finance, vide their Memorandum dated 13th August 2014, extended the facility of Form 'C', under section 8(3) (b) of Central Sales Tax Act 1956, to STBs by including these in the definition of goods for use in the 'Telecommunication Network'.

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